



**II. Project Abstract**

**Briefly (500 words maximum) describe the proposed project clearly and concisely using the space provided.**

Startling trends in demographic data at DeKalb Middle School over recent years have presented challenges in terms of meeting the needs of students who come to our school with diverse social, emotional, and academic experiences. In addition to demographic challenges, DeKalb Middle School recognizes the urgency of incorporating engaging instructional practices into the classroom in order to maintain high levels of motivation and increased student achievement.

It is our belief that we can strive to achieve our two school improvement goals (1) All students will improve writing skills across the curriculum and (2) All students will improve multi-step problem-solving skills across the curriculum, by incorporating the use of technological interactive whiteboards for instruction. The interactive whiteboard technology promotes valid strategies for improving student achievement through formative assessment, student engagement, and the ability to teach to different learning styles.

The rationale for incorporating this type of instructional technology is that we believe we can have an impact on student achievement in the areas of language arts and math; an increase in student motivation by welcoming a more participatory learning environment that challenges students to be accountable for their learning and for monitoring self-progress; and an increase in student engagement through teacher developed lessons that require students to demonstrate the acquisition of knowledge in ways that are more technologically advance and beyond the traditional norms of assessment.

In order to manage a successful implementation of this type of project, it is also necessary to have a strong leadership team that will spearhead the effort and will provide ongoing professional development for the 28 classroom teachers integrating the interactive whiteboard technology. A comprehensive and aggressive timeline for implementation has been established with built in progress monitoring for the effectiveness of all aspects of the project. In conclusion, through the efforts of this project, our students will have expanded access to digital content, expanding learning opportunities,



and will be engaged in a learning environment that honors each student's unique instructional needs.